

In addition, I stated to the NCPC that, in conducting its review, the NCPC should be certain that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act be met. The NCPC should carefully consider all alternatives, including the no action alternative of not moving forward if adverse impacts are identified that are severe and unavoidable.

I also asked the NCPC to afford the public maximum opportunity for comment. This will allow the proposed planning process to reflect the full range of views about development of the islands.

Further, I am directing the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Defense, and Administrator of General Services—all of whom are represented on the NCPC—to ensure that the NCPC's review of this project emphasize children's recreation and education, the protection and restoration of the Anacostia watershed, and

the public interest of the adjacent neighborhoods.

Should the development plans for Children's Island ultimately not pass muster with the NCPC or the District of Columbia, so that the park is not built, the Act provides that the islands will revert back to the National Park Service.

It is my expectation that this legislation will promote the development of these islands in a manner that will serve the economic and recreational needs of the District of Columbia while at the same time preserving our important natural and cultural resources.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
July 19, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 1508, approved July 19, was assigned Public Law No. 104-163.

## Memorandum on National Children's Island July 19, 1996

*Memorandum for the Chair of the National  
Capital Planning Commission*

*Subject:* National Children's Island

Today I signed into law H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act, which authorizes the development of a family-oriented recreation park and a children's playground on islands in the Anacostia River in the District of Columbia. The creation of this project has had the strong support of the District of Columbia government. In addition, the National Park Service has worked for many years to improve this area. The project will bring much needed development into the area.

While it is my intent that this opportunity be made available to the children of the District of Columbia, I am also strongly committed to making sure that any development of these islands is consistent with the preservation of the natural and cultural resources on the site and in the vicinity. I will be looking to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) as the Federal watchdog to achieve these dual goals.

The Act specifies that any development plan be reviewed and approved by the NCPC. I expect the NCPC to be guided by the following principles:

- The project should fully conform to the design, height, density, and other environmental and developmental safeguards contained in the plat filed in the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia under S.O. 92-252.
- The NCPC should fully comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act in reviewing the proposed project and associated structures, including transportation components. In doing so, the NCPC should ensure that all members of the affected community and other interested parties have ample opportunity to participate in the development of alternatives and to review and comment on the analysis of impacts. The NCPC should carefully consider all alternatives, including the no action alternative, in its review. Its ultimate goal should be to ensure appropriate development on the site

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consistent with protection of the historical and natural resources found in the area, protection of the neighborhood, and preservation of the integrity of nearby parkland.

- The NCPC should ensure that the design is consistent with the principles of environmental justice contained in Executive Order No. 12898 of February 11, 1994.

I have also directed the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, and the Administrator of General Services to assure that the NCPC fully complies with the recommendations detailed above. They shall seek to assure that

all reviews done emphasize children's recreation and education, the protection and restoration of the Anacostia watershed, and the public interest of the adjacent neighborhoods.

These endeavors should result in a plan that will serve the economic and recreational needs of the District of Columbia in a fashion compatible with the preservation of important natural and cultural resources.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: H.R. 1508, approved July 19, was assigned Public Law No. 104-163.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

*July 19, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question. The previous submission covered progress through March 31, 1996. The current submission covers the period April 1, 1996, through May 31, 1996.

As noted in my last submission, I have been engaged in a series of meetings with leaders from the region to underscore my interest in advancing a Cyprus solution. On April 9, I informed Greek Prime Minister Simitis that Acting Assistant Secretary Kornblum would be coming to the region in late April, in part to examine possibilities for progress on Cyprus. Mr. Kornblum's message would be that the United

States could help to facilitate a solution only if all the parties were sincerely interested in taking the pragmatic steps necessary for an intercommunal agreement. I am encouraged that Mr. Kornblum found broad appreciation of the need to move ahead on Cyprus. We continue to urge all the parties to seize the unique opportunity that currently exists to make the long-elusive Cyprus solution a reality.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

## The President's Radio Address

*July 20, 1996*

Good morning. This week the tragedy involving TWA Flight 800 took the lives of 230 people. Hillary and I join all our Nation in sending their families and friends our deepest condolences and prayers. We are doing all we can to find the cause of this disaster, and we will find what caused it.

Sixteen of the victims were young high school students from a small town in Pennsylvania, fly-

ing to Paris to see some of the world and work on their French. By setting off to expand their horizons and seeking newer knowledge, these students were trying to live up to their God-given potential. Now, that's all we can ask of any of our children.

So let us remember the dream these children shared, the dream of making the most of their own lives. As a nation, we should dedicate our-